

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME II.

FORT WAYNE, IND., OCTOBER, 1890.

NUMBER 10.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OHIO SYNOD.



On Wednesday evening, Oct. 1st, the Ohio Synod convened in annual session in the Reformed Church at Bluffton, Ind. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring President, Rev. J. M. Kendig, of Canfield, O. The sermon was full of excellent thoughts and counsel to the pastors present in their work.

At the conclusion of the evening service the Synod proceeded to its organization. The role was called and the delegates were properly enrolled. A quorum being present Rev. J. J. Leberman, of Louisville, Ohio, was elected President; Rev. I. H. Riter, of Miamisburg, Ohio, continues as Stated Clerk, and Rev. L. H. Kefauver was re-elected Treasurer.

At the opening session on Thursday morning, the arrival of a number of new delegates was announced and their names were placed upon record. The number of delegates now present at Synod aggregated about one hundred. This was a fair representation of ministers and elders, but by no means a full delegation. The Synod convening so far in the western portion of its territory, it was not expected that the representation would even be as large as it was.

At the Thursday morning session the president announced the usual standing committees. During the day, the various Boards of Synod made their annual reports, which were received and referred to the proper committees. We are glad to note that, with a few exceptions, these Boards were enabled to make favorable reports to the Synod, of their year's work. The Ohio Synod has been enterprising and aggressive in its labors. It is not surprising, therefore, that we should hear of favorable results. The Synod has within its own territory a fruitful field for home missions, and we are rejoiced to see that our church is waking up to its opportunities, and is occupying the field as rapidly, as men and means can be secured. Within the last year a mission has been started at Columbus, Ohio, which is meeting with very encouraging success. Another

mission is just started at Akron, Ohio. Work should be begun in many other of our larger cities. Our people who contribute to benevolence will be glad to learn that our Boards are utilizing their funds with such substantial results. Liberal results will beget liberal supporters.

Our educational interests at Tiffin, O., have been somewhat embarrassed in their work for some months past. It is unfortunate, indeed, that any difficulties should arise to disturb the harmony and the progress of our educational work, just at a time when our institutions were doing such a commendable work and their future was so full of promise. But difficulties will arise. No eye is so far-sighted that it can see the cloud that lies beyond the distant horizon. The members of Synod could not question the fact of existing difficulties. The real issue with every honest heart and mind was, what is the best thing, and the right thing, that can be and should be done under the existing situation of things? By some there may have been grave anticipations of still more serious difficulties arising on the floor of Synod, when the University problem should be reached. In this, we are happy to say, they were disappointed. To us it seems a marvelous thing, that among a community of men, as in the case of the Ohio Synod, where harmony and good will had existed for so many years, there should be any apprehension of such an unwarranted breach of confidence and an outburst of violence. Are there, not still those in Israel, who have not bowed their knees to Baal. Those who at heart are seeking for the right path, and wish to do only what shall be for the highest good of our educational institutions. Petty aggrivances are sometimes allowed to become the controlling forces in the determination of our actions. It would be fortunate, indeed, for man if he could always speak and act with calm and composed heart, and from an unselfish motive, and subject himself to the will of God. The whole matter of the University difficulties was referred to the Board of Regents for investigation and action. We believe this was the right thing to do, and that the Board will take action at an early date, and act in good faith with the trust committed to its charge, and do what is just and right in the matter.

The minutes of the different classes indicated that our churches have been active in every department of work within the past year. There has been a healthy growth in the number of our accessions, and in spiritual life.

Synod mapped out a routine of work for the different classes and congregations for the coming year. Synod makes its apportionments and recommendations in good faith, and we shall hope that our churches will carry the same into execution, in like good faith. There were no matters that came before Synod that provoked much discussion, this enabled Synod to dispatch its business with great haste.

On Thursday evening the Woman's Missionary Society held a very interesting service. Papers were read by ladies of the different classical societies, upon different topics of missionary work. These papers were of the very best, and were well received. Our ladies societies are doing excellent work, and are deserving of much praise, and the fullest corporation of the pastors and of our churches.

On Friday evening of Synod a temperance service was held, under the management of Rev. S. C. Goss. The Ohio Synod is orthodox on the temperance issue. It is so theoretically and practically. A saloon-keeper of Bluffton remarked to a merchant of the city during Synod, that his business was very dull. He was evidently disappointed.

On Saturday evening a service was held in the interest of the Theological Seminary at Tiffin. This meeting was under the charge of Rev. Dr. VanHorn, President of the Seminary. On Sabbath the various pulpits of the churches of the city were filled by delegates of Synod, as also the pulpits of the Reformed churches at Fort Wayne.

Synod adjourned on Saturday evening to meet the first Wednesday in October, 1891, in the Reformed Church at Bellevue, Ohio. The members of Synod were all very pleasantly and hospitably entertained by the people of Bluffton. Rev. Xanders and his church did everything possible to make our stay among them the most pleasant. We are certain that our delegates were all pleased with their entertainment. We shall not object to have Synod go back to Bluffton at some future date again.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers; REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULUS, and D. W. SOUDER.

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A VISIT TO FORT WAYNE.

Readers of the VISITOR.

If you will listen, we will say a few things to you concerning our recent visit to Fort Wayne. On Sept. 30th, we left Akron, Ohio, for Bluffton, Ind., to attend the sessions of the Ohio Synod, to be held in the First Reformed Church of that city. We arrived in Fort Wayne, on Tuesday evening, and spent the night with our brother and his family. We had heard and read much about the city of Fort Wayne, about the Reformed Churches in it, and about the Reformed Orphans' Home located there. These things and the fact of having dear friends and kindred in Fort Wayne created in us a strong desire to visit this growing, enterprising and flourishing city, whose present population is 45,000.

Upon our arrival in Fort Wayne we met Dr. Williard, and our nephew, Parley Zartman, who were on their way to Synod. On Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock, in Grace S. S. Chapel was held a religious service under the auspices of the Y. P. S. C. E. The older members of the church had also been invited to this meeting, and a goodly number of them were present. The congregation was a fair sized one; the number was greater than at the week-night meetings of some churches whose membership is much larger. This impressed us favorably and spoke in praise of Grace Church. All present seemed to enter heartily and sincerely into the spirit of the devotional exercises. "The Wages of Sin" was the topic of the evening. The meeting was placed in charge of Mr. Parley Zartman, who conducted it nicely and spoke acceptably upon the subject. Dr. Williard was present and gave a stirring talk upon the value and blessing of work done in the church by young Christians. We were also afforded an opportunity to speak in this meeting, and responded with pleasure, feeling as we do a special interest in the sheep of our brother's fold.

We heartily congratulate Grace Church upon the fact, that its membership is organized for aggressive Christian work. The young people are organized into a Christian Endeavor Society, which is in a flourishing condition, and helping forward the social moral and religious interests of the

church. The ladies have formed a Missionary Society, which is doing a good and great work socially and financially. A Mission Band, in successful operation, exists among "the children in the covenant. These various organizations add to the life of the church and greatly promote its work and prosperity. We are glad to learn that the Sunday School is large and prosperous. A good well managed Sunday School is the life of the church and essential to its perpetuity.

We had long since desired to see the Orphan's Home at Fort Wayne. We had sent money to it, read about it, prayed for it, and commended it to others; but all this could not take the place of seeing it. Upon our return from Synod, on Saturday afternoon, October 4th, the genial and popular Superintendent of the Home, the Rev. John Rettig, in accordance with his kind offer, came to Fort Wayne with his large covered wagon, to transport us to the Home, which is situated two miles from the city. Father Rettig had no difficulty to secure a load of passengers to go with him to see his numerous family. Rev. M. Loucks, of Dayton; Rev. W. F. Zander, of Youngstown; Elder Peter Ault, of Marshallville; Mr. Parley Zartman, of Tiffin, the editor of THE VISITOR and his family, and the writer and his family—ten in all—accompanied Brother Rettig and his dutiful driver, George, to the Orphanage. The ride in the large omnibus out to the Home was delightful. Our destination was reached in about half an hour. As we drew near the Home we saw many bright and eager faces at the windows; the children were watching for our arrival, and seemed very happy to see visitors.

The orphanage is located on a farm of fifty-seven acres. The principal building is a large and commodious brick structure, erected originally at a cost of \$10,000. This summer an addition was built at an expense of \$8000. There is a large frame barn, a dwelling house and other buildings on these premises, and all in excellent condition. The land is cultivated by the Superintendent and the boys of the Home, who are large enough to do such work. They also rent neighboring fields and farm them. In this way the grain, fruits and vegetables for the Home are raised, and many hundred dollars' worth are sold and the proceeds used in maintaining the orphan family. All of the children are put to work, and thus are they taught the valuable and indispensable lesson of industry. The children are sent to the district school ten months in the year.

Miss Rettig is the teacher. Besides

this schooling they are taught good manners, Bible truths, and Christian principles in the Home. Daily prayers are observed by all the children, and on the Lord's Day the Sunday-school lesson is taught them. The children are educated both in German and English; and English as well as German children are admitted to the Home. We saw a number of boys and girls, who can now read, speak and sing in German; but when they entered the Home they knew nothing but the English language. The educational features of the Home impressed us very favorably in every particular.

At the present time there are sixty-one boys and girls at the Home; they are children of Reformed parentage; there are twice as many boys as girls. When the new building is completed, which will be very soon, over a hundred children can be accommodated. The present yearly expense of running the Home is about \$5,000. About one-fourth of this amount is earned by the farming and gardening done by the Home. The other needed funds are secured by the contributions of the Sunday schools, churches and individuals, which remember the Lord's poor. "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." The Home is managed in an economical manner; indeed, we consider its management perfect and the most satisfactory of any known to us. The entire confidence of the church can be reposed in this Home, because of its unsurpassed government. We feel sure that a visit to the Home would cause the most scrupulous to be satisfied and pleased with its control. This grand institution is owned conjointly by the three German Reformed Synods. Our German brethren started it seven years ago, and they are entitled to great praise for it. We sincerely wish that our Ohio Synod had a share in this home. May the day come soon, when such will be the case, or when the Ohio Synod will have an orphans' home of its own!

While at the home we saw the children eat supper; we saw them at work, too—the girls scrubbing, sweeping, washing dishes, and the boys cutting up corn and attending to the evening chores. After supper the children were assembled in one room, where they sang for us beautifully in German and English. Brother Loucks gave them a very good talk, and we led them in prayer. Whilst we felt sad at the sight of so many orphans, we were happy to see them in such a clean, bright, comfortable house. Here they are better cared for than they would be, even if their parents had them in charge. Dear reader, do all you can for the good of this orphanage. It should receive

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Sabbath evening - - - - -	7:30
Sunday School, - - - - -	9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening - -	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening - -	7:30

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BRIEF AND PERSONAL NOTES.

The \$5.00 shares are now due. Let them all be paid in promptly.

Rev. R. C. Zartman, wife and daughter, of Akron, O., and Parley E. Zartman, of Tiffin, Ohio, were guests at the parsonage before and after the meeting of the Synod, at Bluffton.

The pastor and family, and Miss Emma Neireiter, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ashbacher, while at Bluffton, during the Sessions of Synod. We are under many obligations to those friends for their hospitality. Our stay at Bluffton was altogether a very pleasant one.

The fall communion service of the Salem Reformed Church, Dutch Ridge, will be held Sabbath morning Oct. 26. Preparatory services on Saturday previous at 2:30, p. m. Services also on Saturday evening. Applicants for church membership will be received at any of these services.

The October communion services will be held Sabbath morning, the 19th inst. Every member of the church is expected to be at this service. The preparatory service will be held on Friday evening previous. Applicants for church membership should be present at the Friday evening service.

Monday, Oct. 6, Rev. R. C. Zartman, and the Pastor, accompanied by their families, went to Union City, Ind., to visit Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Foucht. Our visit at this place was a very pleasant one. Union City is a beautiful little city of about 5,000 inhabitants. Mr. Foucht are pleasantly located in their new home and are doing well.

Rev. Dr. Williard was a guest at the parsonage over Sabbath, Sept. 28. He

preached two very excellent sermons for us on that Sabbath. The Dr. has many warm friends in the city.

Rev. M. Loucks, of Dayton, Ohio, preached at the Grace church Sabbath morning, Oct. 5th. Rev. R. C. Zartman preached in the evening. Our people were very much delighted with the sermons of these brethren.

The Women's Synodical Missionary Society which convened in Annual Session at Bluffton, Oct. 2nd, had a large representation, and the meetings were full of interest. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. A. K. Zartman; Vice Presidents, Mrs. E. Herbruck, and Mrs. S. C. Goss; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ida Veemer; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Emma Neireiter; Treasurer, Mrs. Geo. Henning. We hope to give a further report of the ladies' work in our next issue.

Grace Church observed Children's Day, Sept. 21. The decorations for the day were novel and beautiful. On the pulpit stand a wall was constructed, with here and there vines in their autumn foliage twined over it. In the center of the wall was a door, representing Christ, the Door into the Kingdom. Inside of the Door was placed a large floral cross. The Church parlors were otherwise beautifully decorated with flowers and plants. At the morning service the pastor preached a sermon to the children. In the evening a programme was rendered by the children and others, of recitations and singing. The collections for the day amounted to \$32.05. In accordance with our promise to the children, we give below their contributions by classes: Infant class, \$2.25; Mollie Buckwalter, \$1.70; E. G. Pierce, \$1.63; A. K. Zartman, \$1.50; Mrs. J. Vordermark, \$1.33; Katie Vordermark, \$1.25; Mrs. Zartman, \$1.17; Mrs. Kline, \$1.04; Emma Neireiter, \$1.13; Jessie Smith, 97c; Alice Cutler, 52c; D. Souder, 45c; Lillie Vordermark, 40c; Mrs. Lonergan, 40c; Lillie Walters, 50c.

SOCIAL, OYSTER SUPPER, EXPERIENCE MEETING.

A novel entertainment at Grace Church Thursday evening, October 16th.; monthly meeting of the Missionary Society in the afternoon at 2:30; oyster supper in the evening from 5:30 to 9:30. At 8 o'clock there will be an experience meeting. A few months ago the ladies pledged themselves to earn each a dollar in some way, for their society, by the 1st of October. At this social the ladies will relate how the dollars were earned. The roll of the society will be called and the ladies will respond. There will be some interest in revelations. Supper—adults, 25 cents, children, 15 cents.

VISIT TO FORT WAYNE—Continued from 1st page

your confidence, good words, prayers and alms.

Brother Rettig and his family are just the proper persons for the Home. They showed us through every part of the Home, and extended to us their hospitality in giving us a very nice supper, which was duly appreciated. Our visit to and kind treatment at the Home will always be kept in grateful remembrance.

Sabbath, October 5th., we spent in Fort Wayne. This gave us an opportunity to visit the Dutch Ridge Reformed Church, and to speak to our people in that community, who are earnest and devoted. On Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock we attended the Y. M. C. A. meeting, and addressed it at the request of the General Secretary, Mr. Bower. In the evening it was our privilege to preach to the people of Grace Church. We enjoyed the service because the people entered into it with apparent interest and cordial appreciation. We have been most favorably impressed with the brethren of Grace Church, and wish them abundant prosperity in their manifold church enterprises. They have undertaken great things for the Lord, who thus far has crowned their efforts with very gratifying results. Their great work to be done yet, and to be done soon, is the building of the church auditorium. This ought to be done as soon as practicable; and when done, the Sunday school and church membership will soon be doubled. The King's business is urgent and demands haste. Our earnest wish and fervent prayer is that, pastor and people, co-laboring diligently, harmoniously and prayerfully, may witness Heaven's choicest benedictions descending and abiding upon their lives and labors.

Sincerely,

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